

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Venezuela says open to oil production cut to maintain prices

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela would be open to an oil production cut if the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided it was necessary to help maintain prices. Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said Monday.

"We have a joint production level of 30 million barrels per day... that we can maintain in order to keep prices at \$100 a barrel," Ramirez said ahead of an OPEC meeting in Vienna later this week.

But, Ramirez added: "If during the discussions fears are expressed that such a level of production could affect prices, we would be open to a cut in production."

Ramirez was due to head to the Austrian capital on Tuesday ahead of the meeting with his OPEC counterparts, which begins on Thursday. The oil cartel accounts for 35 percent of world oil production.

OPEC boosted production to 30.21 million barrels a day in April from 29.93 million in March while maintaining a

flat forecast for global demand.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate light sweet crude for delivery in July, dropped 54 cents to \$93.61 a barrel Monday afternoon and Brent North Sea crude for July delivery shed 19 cents to \$102.45.

The Venezuelan minister, who also heads the state-owned PDVSA oil company, said the goal of the meeting was to "defend the price of oil," adding that for Caracas, the target price was "\$100 a barrel, at a minimum."

He said some OPEC member countries were over-producing for "geopolitical reasons," but did not name any specific states.

Venezuela has the world's largest proven oil reserves, according to OPEC.

The government says Venezuela produces three million barrels of oil per day, although OPEC says the figure is 2.3 million. Oil production accounts for 90 percent of the country's hard currency revenue.

Government of Aruba intent on achieving a balanced budget by 2016



Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza

Yesterday Aruba's Parliament began deliberations on the budget in a public meeting here. The Minister of Finance

Mike de Meza indicated that he is proud of this proposed budget in view of the many difficulties which have confronted the island in recent times.

According to the IMF they concluded in their report that Aruba is one of the islands most affected in the Caribbean and the figures are there to attest to this. There was the closure of Valero. At the start of 2011 they reopened their doors, but because of the dramatic effects on the petroleum world market they later closed down operations again in 2012.

Aruba's GDP in 2009 was a negative 9% and after 2010 this improved yet only a neg-

ative 4.3%. In 2011 we saw recuperation in the economy of 8.4%. By 2012, the GDP was at 3.5% and at 2013; the one being used for the 2013 budget is at 3.5%.

According to the Minister, the 2013 budget has shown a substantial increase. IMF attributes this to what the government is doing, and has projected a growth even greater than what the government expected. The IMF projected a growth of 5.1% for 2014, while the government projected 4.5%. The subsequent years are similar to what IMF has envisioned.

Continue on pg 5

Remembering storm, Obama, Christie again the odd couple

Asbury Park, New Jersey (AFP) - US President Barack Obama on Tuesday rekindled his odd couple relationship with Republican rising star Chris Christie, as they high-fived on a New Jersey boardwalk hit by Hurricane Sandy.

Christie, the state governor, welcomed Obama to New Jersey on a trip meant to highlight coastal areas rebuilding and bouncing back from the monster storm last October, as the US summer vacation season gets underway.

Christie was heavily criticized by some Republicans last year over his effusive praise for Obama's role in responding to the storm, which bolstered the president's image days before his election faceoff with Mitt Romney.

"New Jersey is more important, and our citizens' lives are more important, than any kind of politics at all," Christie said Tuesday, as he welcomed Obama.

Before the storm, Christie was one of Republican Rom-



President Barack Obama stands with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie before speaking to crowds along a rain soaked boardwalk on May 28, 2013 in Asbury Park, New Jersey. (AFP)

ney's prime attack dogs, hammering the president's record and leadership style.

But with his state in crisis, the blunt-spoken governor, a possible 2016 Republican presidential candidate, embraced Obama and was paid back with swift federal help and an open line to the White House.

Though he is unapologetic about courting Obama, and may enjoy a political payoff

from being seen to work across political divides, Christie risks a backlash from conservatives who decide the Republican Party's nomination. The president meanwhile is happy for any chance to change the subject after several weeks being battered by controversies over the raid on the US mission in Benghazi last year and tax authorities who targeted conservative groups.



A Second chance at love: read Sal and Joan's beautiful story on pg 4

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MAKE OIL FOR THE WINGS OF VICTORY

By: Roland W. Peterson

Feuhrer, feuhrer, captain Hartenstein of the Nazi German U-boat 156 commanded.

And so outside the European theater of WW II, the first shot was fired at 1:21 AM in the western hemisphere.

The target was the defenseless oil tanker SS. Pedernales, outside the reef in front of the Lago oil-refinery, Aruba. The date was February 16th 1942.

The sound was deafening as the torpedo penetrated the flank of the oil tanker, that exploded into a fireball.

Two minutes later captain Hartenstein ordered a second torpedo launched. The second torpedo hit the lake tanker SS. Oranjestad

Now the SS. Oranjestad is crippled.

She is listing on her side and is sinking.

The deck turned into an inferno

The black willowing smoke choked the brave men/sailors aboard, as they fought the enormous odds to keep her afloat.

Some men were blasted over board, and - others with their clothes on fire, jumped into the murky waters.

In the days that followed several other oil tankers were torpedoed by the Nazi Germans with their U 156 and U 502 submarines.

The oil tankers were transporting crude oil from Venezuela to one of the world's largest oil refineries, the Lago oil refinery in Aruba. In Aruba the oil was refined as fuel oil for the Allied forces fighting in Europe. The Nazi Germans knew this, so they were torpedoing every oil tanker in sight.



(FILES-Auke Visser) S.S. Oranjestad

In the year 1942 in front of the Roman Catholic-church San Francisco in Oranjestad, stood a large propaganda billboard. (This billboard, more than seventy years later, is still standing.) On this billboard, was written: "Traha azeta pa halanan di Victoria. Nacionan Uni". ("Make oil for the wings of victory. United Nations").

Today we would like to honor and pay tribute to the brave men/sailors who came from different countries and paid the ultimate price for Aruba. So we would like to build a national memorial park/monument with the historical words: "Traha azeta pa halanan di Victoria Nacionan Uni." This to commemorate those brave men/sailors.

It has been more than seventy (70) years that Nazi U-boats, torpedoed oil tankers in the waters around Aruba, but nowhere on the island is there a sign or a token of Aruban appreciation for the victims.

More than 47 courageous sailors from 12 different

countries died whilst working on the oil-tankers.

The place we would like to plan for the national memorial park/monument to be, is about a hundred meters to the east of the little fisherman's pier at Roger's Beach, Seroe Colorado, in the back of the old ESSO club overlooking the place where it all took place.

At this park a memorial-wall will be erected and displayed with the names of the brave sailors, their country of origin and the oil tanker on which they sailed. (In a separate folder the details of the monument are given). Also at this monument there will be a statue in memory of all those who have gone out to sea and have never returned. A statue of a lady looking out to sea with a little child in her left arm and another small child standing at her right side.

At this moment there is no adequate place where family-members can pay tribute to their loved-one(s) and for the Government to honor our he-

roes.

This monument and statue would be highly appreciated by family-members.

The "Memorial Park" is not only for the sailors, but also for anyone who directly or indirectly were involved in defending our island and who lost their lives in doing so.

The Memorial Park Foundation is a nonprofit organization.

With solar led-lights the flags and monument will be lighted at night.

(Concerning the lights contact will be taken with the foundation "Turtuga Aruba".)

This national park/monument and statue will also serve as an attraction and recreational park for the locals as well as

the tourist in memory of the ones that perished. Something that is badly needed in San Nicolas.

We hope that on inauguration day, brave sailor(s) that are still alive, family member(s), locally and abroad and also the family of those who went out at sea and never returned will be invited by the Government of Aruba.

Persons who have information, willing to fund or on a voluntary basis willing to help conduct the Foundation or, person(s) who is (are) interested in this project, or have information concerning this project or want to know more about this project, can always contact:

Mr. Maurice Peterson at: maurice@peterson.aw or Roland W. Peterson at: allamanda@setarnet.aw

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On Friday May 24, Taline Tahmassian and David Morais from Virginia, proclaimed their love to each other in presence of family and friends at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. Close family and friends joined Taline and David to realize their dream wedding in Aruba. The beach ceremony was followed by a reception at the La Vista Patio, where the married couple danced for the first time as Mr. & Mrs. Morais to "Mis Ojos" by Mana. Event Manager Simone Silooy and Banquets team executed the blessing wedding event. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino congratulates the happy couple Morais and wishes them the best of luck.

Pictures provided by photographer Victor Winklaar



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Joan and Sal Fusco prove the old adage "never say never"



Sal and Joan, Farida Mansur of ABC and Cousin Bobby

As schmaltzy songwriters take joy in expounding, we never know when Cupid will strike; Joan and Sal Fusco of Massachusetts consider themselves living proof that his arrows can land in the most unlikely places.

Joan and Sal are vacationing on Aruba for the first time as man and wife, almost two years after they were married, he at the age of 72, and she, 73. "I am something of a cougar," she says with a wicked smile; "there is a lot to be said for older women," confirms Sal with a wiggle of his brows.

The two are actually celebrating their third anniversary of meeting on Aruba, around Memorial Day of 2010. Both had been widowed for a few years. Sal and his wife Theresa had been vacationing on Aruba annually since the late 1980's, when they first purchased two weeks of timeshare at the Aruba Beach Club.

Joan and her husband John Ward had visited the island on and off over the years, staying at the Palm Beach Resorts. Both Joan and Sal lost their beloved spouses after 47 years of

marriage, she in 2005 and he in 2008.

"After 47 wonderful years married to the love of our lives, it never occurred to either of us that we would ever marry again," the couple explains. "We were certain at this point that was it for us; we just couldn't imagine anything romantic ever happening."

Part of Sal's "extended Aruba family," the group he and his wife traveled with year after year, was Joan's sister Paula, who also owned a timeshare at the ABC. She had met the Fuscus on the resort's beach, and they had become fast friends.

In 2010, for the first time, Joan joined her sister for a week on Aruba. "I just came to lay on the beach, have some nice dinners with my sister and her family, and play in the casinos a bit. That was all." Sal's intentions were exactly the same. However, Cupid, disguised as Sal's cousin, Bobby Conneaney, introduced them in the lobby of the ABC the first night of their vacation.

The next day, Sal ran into Joan on the beach. Before they knew it, they were shar-

ing their life stories, lunch and touring Oranjestad, and soon became inseparable. Joan even extended her stay for three days. When she went back to her home in Randolph, Massachusetts, she just happen to leave a swimsuit behind, and Paula asked Sal to return it to Joan when he got back to his home in Somerville, Mass., only a half hour away from Joan's house.

Sal returned to the States on a Saturday, and the very next day he was at Joan's door for Sunday dinner...and as they say, the rest is history. They were constant companions through the summer, and at Christmas, he presented her with a ring and a proposal. The couple married in September of 2011, but could not return to Aruba until this year, as they now had a combined family of 5 children with many grandchildren graduating from school.

"All we do is laugh and have fun," exclaimed Joan. "We never expected anything like this to happen; we have such a good time. Sal spoils me so."

"This wedding was very special for us," states Sal,

"the words of the service had real meaning."

"Yes," agrees Joan. "When you first marry at a young age, when the priest says 'Till death do you part,' you don't really think about it, but now, for us, this is REALLY until death. I could not think of a better way to spend these last years of our lives."

Sal admits, it has put a definitive spring in his step. "We were dancing the other night, and I never used to dance much before, but now we are up there for every-

thing they play, no matter what."

"We are so blessed," says Joan. "I hope others look at us and realize that when you lose a beloved husband or wife of many years, life is not over. You can still find someone to love, to share and enjoy life with, perhaps more than you ever thought you would."

THE MORNING NEWS wishes the Fuscus many happy, healthy years together, enjoying life to the fullest; and example to us all to "never say never!"

By Rosalie Klein

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Government of Aruba intent on achieving...

Continued from pg 1

Since 2010, the financial deficit of Aruba was negative 9.4% and following it has continued at 7.3% and continues to drop to 5.6% for 2012. IMF put the figures at 8.6% and for 2013 it has become 4.6% with the intention that the government will strive for 3% as was agreed in 2010.

IMF's calculations are based on a so-called "cash basis" with a view to income generated as of January 1st, 2012, and the total income up to December 31st, 2012; whereas, the government uses a different yardstick when preparing a budget. The government stipulated what were expenses and future obligations to be met in 2012. Those payments may be made later in 2013.

According to the Aruba Minister of Finance, the calculation to achieve a cash basis of 3% will be achieved in 2014. Aruba can proudly say that we have achieved the international standard of 3%, and that all indications are evident that by 2016 they will achieve the desired balanced budget, according to the Minister of Finance.

Sister Joannette celebrates 90th birthday



Interim Director of Aruba House, Mrs. Shandra John, recently visited the Woonzorgcentrum H. Hartklooster in the city of Asten to visit Sister Joannette, who on May 26th celebrated her 90th birthday. Aruba House presented the venerable Sister Joannette a lovely bouquet of flowers. At the same time she presented Sister Joannette several gifts from, among others, ex-colleagues of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital.

Sister Joannette lived and worked for many years in Aruba. She worked, among several places, at the San Pedro Hospital and at the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital in the 1st and 2nd classes. In 1986 Sister Joannette left and returned to her native Holland.

Shandra John recalled her visit as being very pleasant and which brought back many memories. She recalled knowing Sister Joannette in Aruba during her early childhood. She was delighted to meet with Sister Joannette after 27 years. Sister Joannette, according to Shandra is still full of energy, just like she was back some 27 years ago.

Also present for the occasion were Sisters Philotha, Eugenia, Benedicta, Peptua and Gertrude, who all worked and lived for some time in Aruba. They all have lovely memories of Aruba and even can remember a bit of Papiamentu.



Venezuela accuses CNN of seeking to foment coup



CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro on Monday accused US-based news network CNN en Espanol of working to promote a coup d'etat as part of a wider media war against his socialist government.

"CNN en Espanol is a network controlled by those seeking destabilization, which openly urges people to carry out a coup d'etat in Venezuela, and which is delivering a distorted version of our nation's political and social life," Maduro said in an address carried on national television.

The Spanish-language US network is part of a wider campaign of "brutal psychological warfare" led by the "fascist right-wing" seeking his government's demise, Maduro said.

"CNN en Espanol has become the spearhead for promoting intervention against our nation," Maduro warned, charging "it is broadcasting 24 hours a day not to tell what's going on in the world but rather to make Venezuela look bad."

Maduro -- who won a disputed presidential poll held last month following the death of leader Hugo Chavez -- has been enraged by reports of splits within the ruling party leadership, maintaining that they are false.

Last week he denounced a leaked audio recording that purports to show a power struggle among key followers of Chavez, who lost a long battle with cancer in March.

In the recording, which has set off a sensation since it was made public by an oppo-

sition lawmaker, a well-known government newscaster is heard accusing National Assembly speaker Diosdado Cabello of conspiring against Maduro.

The newscaster, Mario Silva, dismissed the recording as a montage pieced together from his television show. He later announced he was suspending the show indefinitely for undisclosed health reasons.

The recording purports to capture a conversation between Silva and Aramis Palacios, a Cuban intelligence chief, that purportedly was held days after Venezuela's April 14 presidential election.

Maduro was declared the winner by a narrow margin, but the results are being contested by opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, who says the election was stolen.

Spain keeps Dutch couple's suspected killer in custody

MADRID (AFP) - A judge remanded in custody Tuesday a Spaniard suspected in the killing of a Dutch volleyball player and her boyfriend, whose bodies were reportedly found dismembered in a shallow grave, a court said.

The judge in Valencia remanded the suspect after questioning in a closed-door investigation into the killing of the Dutch couple, said a court official who asked not to be named.

Spanish media reported that the suspect was the former manager of a volleyball club in which the dead woman, Ingrid Visser, had played.

The bodies were found buried in a lemon grove in Murcia, southeastern Spain. Police said Monday they arrested three people, including two Romanians, in Valencia.

Police were waiting for the results of DNA tests to

confirm whether the bodies were those of Visser, 35, and her partner Lodewijk Severein, 57.

The couple disappeared on May 13 shortly after checking into a hotel in Murcia.

The city's police chief Cirilo Duran told a press conference on Monday that they had suffered a violent death.

Spanish media, citing sources close to the investigation, reported that the two were found in a shallow grave, cut into pieces, and may have been tortured.

Duran said investigators suspected the couple had "business disagreements" with the suspects that had led to the killing.

Visser was part of the Netherlands's gold medal-winning team at the European Championship in 1995 and played for a volleyball team in Murcia between 2009 and 2011.

Cuba to expand public Internet access

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba will expand limited public access to the Internet next month by opening up another 118 places where people on this communist-run island can surf the Web for a fee, authorities said Tuesday.

Set to start June 4, the extension takes advantage of an undersea fiber-optic cable from Venezuela and will gradually be rolled out further -- but not to homes, according to a Communications Ministry resolution published in the Official Gazette and local media.

The notification says members of the public will be able to access the Web for \$4.5 an hour, down from the

current \$6 an hour, or check their email for an unchanged \$1.50.

These services "can only be accessed from the navigation rooms," said the resolution, which specifically ruled out the installation of Internet connections in homes.

There are now more than 200 public Internet rooms in hotels on the island that sell connection cards that cost between \$7 and \$10. Post offices also provide access to email.

With Cubans making an average of \$20 a month, the reduced fee likely won't make much of a difference to most locals.

Wal-Mart fined \$110 mn over hazardous waste

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Wal-Mart was hit with \$110 million in US federal and state fines Tuesday after pleading guilty to criminal charges of mishandling hazardous waste and pesticides at its retail stores. The world's largest retailer was fined for dumping hazardous chemicals in city trash bins and sewer systems in cases filed by the Los Angeles and San Francisco municipalities. "Truckloads of hazardous products, including more than two million pounds of pesticides, were improperly handled under Wal-Mart's contract," said Tammy Dickinson, US attorney for the Western District of Missouri. "Today's criminal fine should send a message to companies of all sizes that they will be held accountable to follow federal environmental laws."



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International News

UK soldier murder suspect leaves hospital, now in custody

LONDON (AFP) - Police on Tuesday began questioning one of the prime suspects in the brutal murder of a British soldier in London, six days after the Islamist attack, following his release from hospital.

Michael Adebowale, 22, was formally taken into police custody as the family of his co-accused, Michael Adebolajo, issued a statement expressing their "profound shame and distress" over the murder.

Soldier Lee Rigby was hacked to death in broad daylight last Wednesday near a barracks in Woolwich by two men who later spouted Islamic extremist rhetoric at passers-by.

Both Adebowale and Adebolajo, 28, were injured in police fire at the scene and were held at separate London hospitals under armed guard until they were well enough to be questioned.

Following his discharge on Tuesday afternoon, Adebowale was taken into custody at a south London police station, Scotland Yard said.

Adebolajo, who was captured in amateur footage after the attack claiming he murdered the soldier because British troops were killing Muslims, remains in stable condition in hospital.

In a statement, his relatives

sent their "heartfelt condolence" to the family of the murdered 25-year-old, which includes his two-year-old son Jake.

They said there was "no place for violence in the name of religion or politics".

Both Adebolajo and Adebowale, Muslim converts from Nigerian Christian families, are believed to have been known previously to the British intelligence services.

Elsewhere, counter-terrorism police launched an investigation Tuesday after a guard at a maximum security prison was taken hostage and injured by three inmates reportedly inspired by Rigby's murder.

Evacuation orders in Chile, Argentina over volcano

SANTIAGO (AFP) - Authorities in Chile and Argentina on Monday issued a red alert and ordered the evacuation of 3,000 people living near the Copahue volcano near their common border, saying an eruption could be imminent.

The National Geology and Mining Service said that while volcanic activity had diminished, the rise of underground magma had likely passed a

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Russia insisted Tuesday it would deliver anti-aircraft missiles to war-torn Syria despite international criticism and a border-area attack killed three Lebanese soldiers, adding to growing fears of a wider conflict.

Israel warned it would act if the Russian delivery went ahead, and Syria's top rebel commander gave Hezbollah, the powerful Lebanese Shiite movement, a 24-hour ultimatum to stop fighting alongside regime forces.

The developments stoked tensions after the European Union decided to lift an embargo on weapons to Syria's rebels, in a move the opposition reacted to with caution.

Syria's regime joined its ally Russia in condemning the EU decision as an "obstruction" to

"point of no return" and warned of a possible explosive eruption.

In Chile authorities have said all women and children living within a 25-kilometer (15-mile) radius of the volcano must leave but men may remain to care for their animals.

Another 800 people were cleared from homes on Argentina's side of the border on Monday, according to local officials.

So far, the volcano has only spewed gas, not ash. Chile also issued a red alert for the 2,965-meter (9,700 foot) Copahue last December, but an eruption did not follow.

The June 2011 eruption of Chile's Puyehue volcano periodically disrupted air travel in much of the southern cone of South America, and as far away as Australia, for months.

Russia to send Syria missiles, fears grow of wider war



peace efforts, while accusing the bloc of supporting and encouraging "terrorists".

The United States said it supports the EU move as a show of "full support" for the rebels, despite its own refusal to provide arms it fears will end up in jihadist hands.

Moscow said its plans to deliver to Damascus the S-300 missiles -- designed to intercept aircraft or other missiles like Patriots NATO has already deployed on Turkey's border with Syria -- were part of existing contracts.

The Jewish state has reportedly carried out at least three strikes against Syria since the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad erupted in March 2011, apparently target-

ing weapons.

On the ground, the conflict has already spilled over into Lebanon, and in the latest incident three soldiers were killed in an attack near the northern border town of Arsal, where most people back Syria's uprising.

Hezbollah is allied with Syria's regime and fighting alongside the army against the rebels, including in the central town of Qusayr, where it has lost dozens of men.

The tensions overshadowed an ongoing meeting in Istanbul of Syria's opposition National Coalition, which responded cautiously to the EU's decision to lift its arms embargo on the rebels.

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Health & Living

Confirmed cases of H7N9 bird flu drug resistance: study

PARIS (AFP) - Laboratory tests have revealed resistance in some H7N9 bird flu patients to the only available treatment, said virologists who unveiled "concerning" study results yesterday.

Three out of 14 patients monitored at a clinic in Shanghai had a genetically-mutated version of the virus that makes it drug resistant, a team of researchers in China wrote in the journal *The Lancet*.

Of the three, one developed drug resistance only after being medicated, "probably as a result of treatment with Tamiflu" -- a widely-used antiviral drug, said a statement.

This gave rise to fears that treatment might actually cause resistance to the only available drugs.

These are the first clinically confirmed cases of H7N9 resistance.

On Monday, Chinese health authorities said no new human cases of the deadly H7N9 bird flu strain had been recorded for the second week in a row.

A total of 130 people have been infected and 37 died since the outbreak started in China in February.

The virus is believed to spread to humans from birds, but fears were that it would mutate into a form transmissible from human to human.

The results of a lab study published in the US journal *Science* last month showed the H7N9 strain can spread among mammals, specifically ferrets, and would do the same between humans under certain conditions.

Tamiflu and peramivir belong to a class of antiviral drugs called neuraminidase inhibitors -- the only known treatment for H7N9.

Three patients, however, had a "persistently high viral load" in spite of treatment and had to be placed on oxygenation life support machines, wrote the authors. Two of them died.

The authors said that apart from throat swabs, they also found virus traces in the blood, faeces and urine of some patients, and urged further studies to determine whether it could spread in ways other than coughing or sneezing.

They also noted that two of the drug resistant patients had also been treated with corticosteroids, a drug that is also widely used in flu treatment.

The team said there should be further studies to determine whether corticosteroids may aid drug resistance to develop.

H7N9 causes severe pneumonia with a fever, cough and shortness of breath and is deadlier than the common, seasonal flu.

Gunmen kill polio worker in Pakistan

PESHAWAR (AFP) - Gunmen shot dead a female anti-polio worker in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, police said, the latest in a series of deadly attacks on vaccination teams.

The two attackers on a motorbike opened fire on the team as they went to administer polio drops on the edge of the city of Peshawar, near the restive Khyber tribal region where the military has been

battling homegrown insurgents with links to the Taliban.

An official in the city's Lady Reading hospital confirmed the death.

No one has claimed responsibility for the killing. But last year the Pakistani Taliban banned polio vaccinations in the tribal region of Waziristan, alleging the campaign was a cover for espionage.

Late last year polio teams came under attack in Karachi and in the northwest, with nine health workers carrying out vaccinations killed by gunmen.

Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria are the only countries where polio is endemic. Polio cases in Pakistan hit 198 in 2011, the highest figure for more than a decade and the most of any country in the world, according to the UN.

Philippines drops 'SEX' for health slogan

MANILA (AFP) - The Philippine Health Department said Tuesday it had dropped a cheeky slogan that recommended 'SEX' for call centre workers after the industry failed to find it funny.

The SEX tagline, which stood for "Stress-free, Eat the right foods and Exercise", was suppose to encourage the country's army of call centre workers to lead healthier

lifestyles, said Health Undersecretary Enrique Tayag.

However representatives of the call centres objected, saying their sector was already being stigmatised by reports that HIV infections were higher among their workers, Tayag told AFP. He said he also did not expect newspaper headlines such as "Call Center Agents need to have more SEX: Department of Health."

Synthetic drug use rapidly rising in Europe

PARIS (AFP) - New synthetic psychoactive substances are making their way into Europe where the Internet is becoming a big challenge in the fight against illicit drugs, the continent's drug agency warned Tuesday. Drug use in Europe remains high even though the consumption of cannabis and cocaine appears to be slowing, as is new heroin use, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) said in its annual report. The centre said more chemical or natural substances were emerging on the market, with 73 new psychoactive substances detected in 2012 -- compared to just 49 in 2011 -- many of them close to cannabis due to high demand. Mephedrone, a party drug often called "meow meow" described as a mix between amphetamines, cocaine and ecstasy, is an example of a new drug that has become a sought-after substance on the illicit stimulant market. Altogether, around a quarter of Europe's adult population has used an illicit drug at some point in their lives. And while the practice of injecting drugs is slowing, the report says figures show the long-term decline in the number of new HIV diagnoses in Europe could be interrupted as a result of outbreaks among drug users in Greece and Romania. The report however welcomed that a record number of people -- an estimated 1.2 million -- had received treatment for illicit drug use in Europe during 2011.

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Sci-Tech

Biological clock scientists share Asian prize



HONG KONG (AFP) - Three scientists whose groundbreaking studies using fruit flies helped to uncover the workings of the human biological clock were Tuesday named the winners of the \$1 million Shaw Prize.

US scientists Jeffrey Hall, Michael Rosbash and Michael Young received the award "for their discovery of molecular mechanisms underlying circadian rhythms", the prize organisers said in a statement.

Biological rhythms govern behaviour in plants, animals and humans, from flowers opening during the day and closing at night, to sleep patterns and the effect of jet lag.

The three scientists, who will share the \$1 million life science and medicine award, conducted a series of landmark studies on mutant fruit flies, discovering the fundamental mechanism that controls these rhythms -- a gene with a 24-hour cyclical feedback loop.

Their work later shed light on further genes involved in the clock mechanism and how

they controlled daily rhythms.

The prize, now in its tenth year, also recognises achievements in the categories of astronomy and mathematical science, with \$1 million going to each.

The astronomy prize went jointly to Steven Balbus of Oxford University and John Hawley of the University of Virginia for their discoveries in "accretion", a phenomenon in astrophysics which plays a key role in star formation and the growth of supermassive black holes.

The prize for mathematical science went to David Donoho of Stanford University for his "profound contributions" in developing new mathematical and statistical tools.

The Shaw Prize is funded by Hong Kong film producer and philanthropist Run Run Shaw.

It honours exceptional contributions to "furthering societal progress, enhancing quality of life, and enriching humanity's spiritual civilisation".

Kitchen drawers, nano-capsules scoop invention awards

AMSTERDAM (AFP) - The inventors of products ranging from kitchen drawers that close silently to hi-tech cancer-killing nano capsules were among those honoured at the European Inventor Award.

Austrians Claus Haemmerle and Klaus Bruestle won the Industry category prize for their now ubiquitous damper system that allows drawers and cupboards around the world to close smoothly and silently.

Judges, including experts from business, politics, media, academia and research, chose winners from 15 finalists in five categories.

Belgian-born Frenchman Patrick Couvreur and his team from the University of Paris-

Sud won the Research prize for nano-capsules that allow for less aggressive but more effective forms of targeted cancer therapy.

The tiny capsules are just one seventieth of the size of red blood cells and travel to the actual site of diseased cells to release their payload.

The Lifetime Achievement award went to Swiss physicist Martin Schadt, known as the "father of the pixel", who first applied to patent Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD) in 1970.

The annual event is organised by the European Patent Office (EPO), whose president Benoit Battistelli said the LCD "exemplifies the importance of patience, circumspection and

long-term investment for the development of cutting-edge technology".

In 2012, sales of LCD devices amounted to \$120 billion, the EPO said.

"This breakthrough could not have been foreseen in the 1970s," Schadt said.

Swedish professor Pal Nyren won in the small and medium enterprise category for a technique that has dramatically slashed the time and cost needed for DNA sequencing known as pyrosequencing.

The invention has revolutionised deciphering the genetic code: the entire DNA of a cell can now be read in just two months, compared to 13 years before, and at a fraction of the cost.

Teens share more online, see privacy issues: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - American teenagers are sharing more information about themselves on social media sites, but taking steps to protect their privacy online, a study showed Tuesday.

The new survey showed 91 percent of those surveyed posted a photo of themselves, up from 79 percent in 2006; 71 percent post the city or town

where they live; and 53 percent posted their email address.

But the survey of youth aged 12 to 17 also found 60 percent of Facebook users set their profiles to "private," which limits who can view their data.

And 56 percent said it was "not difficult at all" to manage the privacy controls on their

Facebook profile, according to the survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in collaboration with Harvard's Berkman Center.

A relatively small percentage expressed concern about third-party access to their data: just nine percent were "very concerned."

At the same time, teens are becoming more interested in Twitter: the study found 24 percent of online teens use Twitter, up from 16 percent in 2011.

The typical teen Facebook user has 300 friends, compared with 79 followers for those using Twitter.

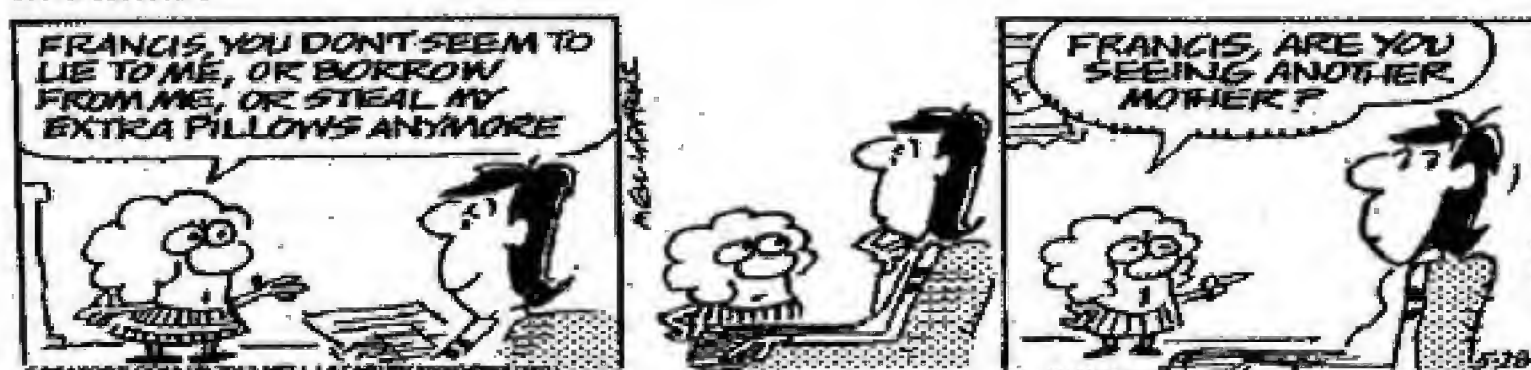
Girls and older teens tend to have substantially larger Facebook friend networks compared with boys and younger teens, it found.

COMICS

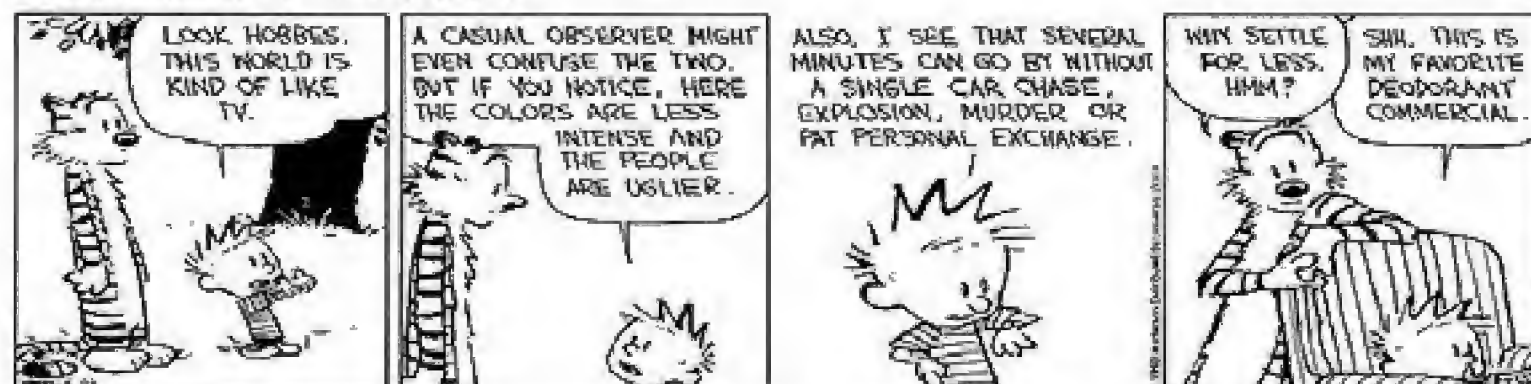
PICKLES



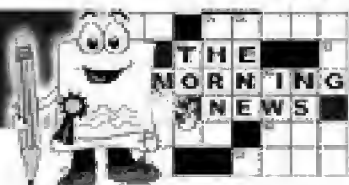
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Moviegoer's admonition
4. Bowl-like curves
8. Aliens' crafts
12. Salary
13. Politico Bob or Liddy
14. "___ Hammer"
15. Shirt sleeve
16. Gazed upon
17. Sailor's stop
18. Dispatches
20. Woman (abbr.)
22. "Go, team!"
23. Ike's theater
25. Caesar's city
27. Annals
31. Light wood
34. Downhearted
35. Enjoy a buffet
37. French islands
38. Gyrates
40. Enclosure for horses
42. Doctor's "right away!"
44. Bossy Stooge
45. "Monk" network
47. Conjunction, for short
49. Knot on a tree
53. Beach material
55. On the lam, military style
57. ___ Paulo, Brazil
58. Monopoly cubes
59. Existed
60. Two make a

qt.

61. Beerlike potables
62. Catch
63. Comprehend

DOWN

1. Resorts
2. Rabbit's relative
3. Sunday song
4. "___ Fideles"
5. Musician Clark
6. Musical marking
7. Passover celebration
8. Sports official, for short
9. NYC mayor La Guardia
10. Green pods for soup

11. Adam's son

19. Chaste

21. Disorderly crowd

24. Madrid cheer

26. Winless racehorse

27. "Ghost Whisperer" network

28. Swiss mountain

29. Obnoxious one

30. Tree fluid

32. Moment, informally

33. Inquire

36. Soft cap

39. Posed

41. Golf course feature (2 wds.)

43. Defrosts

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site:

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45. Govt. food-regulating agcy.

46. Navigate

48. "Closer" actor Clive

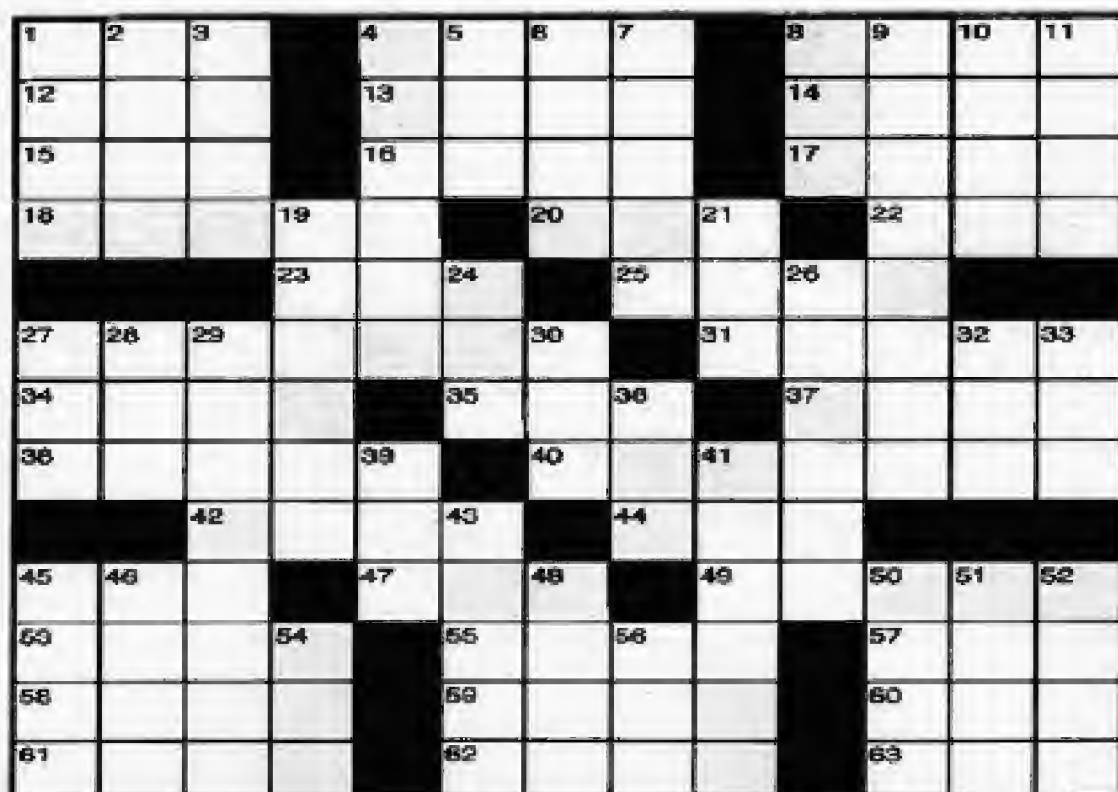
50. Small snakes

51. Pace

52. Be defeated

54. ___ Moines

56. "Are you a man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)



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Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

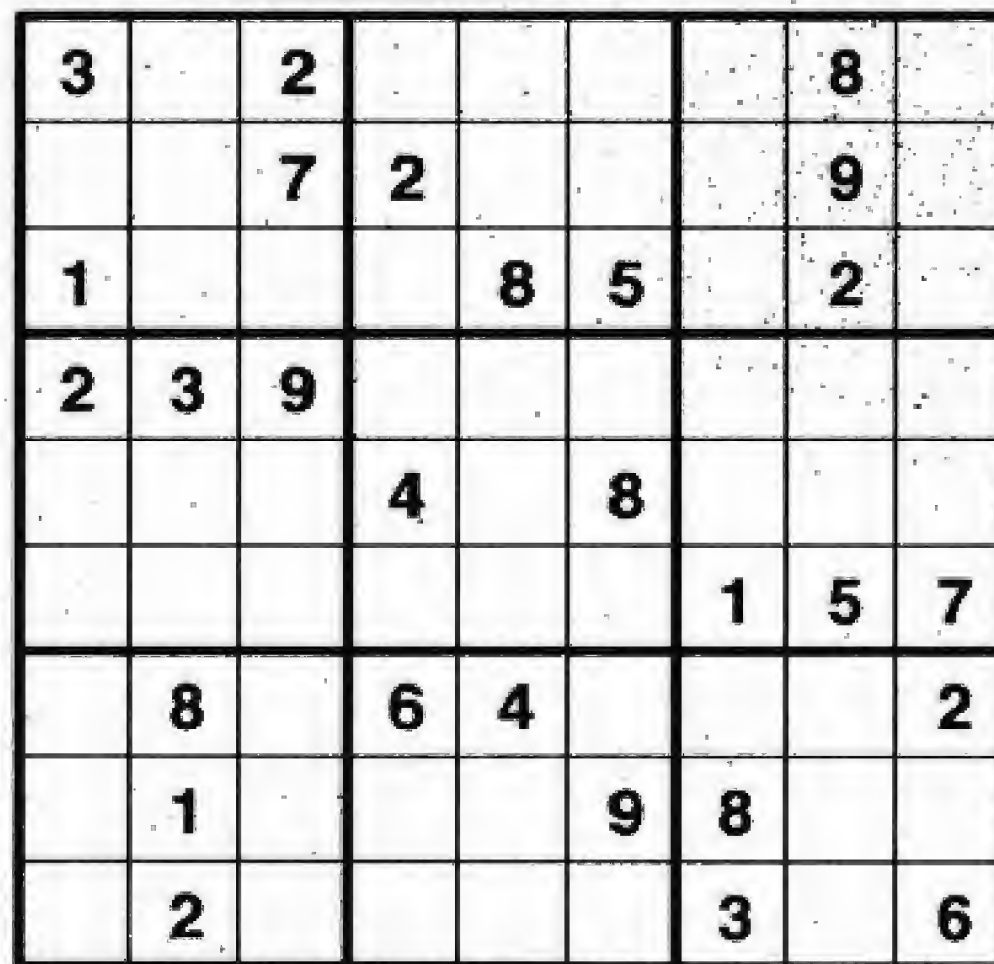
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Horacio Oduber Hospital
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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	4	6	1	5	8	7	2	3
5	7	8	6	2	4	3	1	9
2	1	6	8	7	9	5	3	4
2	5	1	2	6	8	9	7	4
6	8	2	9	7	1	4	3	5
8	9	7	4	1	5	6	3	2
3	2	4	5	8	6	9	1	7
1	6	9	7	3	2	4	5	8
7	3	5	9	4	1	2	6	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



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FINANCE

Oil prices rally, in line with stocks

LONDON (AFP) - Global oil prices rallied on Tuesday, supported by rising global stock markets and upbeat investor sentiment, before an OPEC output meeting later this week, analysts said.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in July advanced \$1.76 to \$104.38 a barrel in late afternoon London trading.

Elsewhere on Tuesday, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for July, added \$1.26 to \$95.41 a barrel.

"A bullish tone across the global equity markets supported crude oil prices higher, with Brent prices shaking off the uncertainty towards the end of last week and decisively moving higher," said analyst Kash Kamal at the Sueden Financial Research brokerage in London.

"However, the Brent contract had slumped last Thursday to a three-week low at \$100.64 a barrel, as weak Chinese economic data sparked fresh demand concerns in the world's top energy consuming nation.

OPEC meets in Vienna on Friday and is expected to maintain its crude production ceiling, with oil prices steady above \$100 a barrel after sharp falls earlier this year, analysts said.

Ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which pumps about 35 percent of global oil supplies, will convene in the Austrian capital

amid angst over volatile financial markets and a weak outlook for energy demand.

Analysts expect that OPEC will leave its collective oil production ceiling at 30 million barrels per day (mbpd), where it has stood since the end of 2011, despite actual output exceeding this official target level.

The new energy minister of OPEC member the United Arab Emirates, Suhail Al Mazrouei, said on Monday that current oil prices were "convenient and fair" and did not pose a threat to the global economy.

However, this year's price falls have sparked calls from hawk Iran - whose output has been hit by an oil embargo - for lower production to boost prices. Fellow OPEC hawk Venezuela has also declared that it would be open to a cut despite looking to keep prices at around \$100.

"Venezuela and Iran have already reported that they will try to defend the current oil price level around \$100 per barrel," added analyst Kamal.

"In the meantime, the high production levels in Saudi Arabia and Iraq add some pressure to oil prices, keeping the market in oversupply."

IMF board voices confidence in Lagarde

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The International Monetary Fund's executive board on Tuesday reiterated confidence in managing director Christine Lagarde after a French court grilled her over a state payout to a disgraced tycoon when she was finance minister.

Lagarde was interviewed by the court on Thursday and Friday as judges sought to determine whether to prosecute her over a 400-million-euro (\$517 million) state payout to controversial businessman Bernard Tapie, decided when she was finance minister five years ago.

At the conclusion, the court declined to place her under formal charges, which could have challenged her ability to

NEW YORK (AFP) - The United States on Tuesday unveiled what it called the world's "largest" money laundering probe against the digital currency operator Liberty Reserve.

The Costa Rica-based entity, which handled huge amounts of money outside the control of national governments, is charged with running a "\$6 billion money laundering scheme and operating an unlicensed money transmitting business," the US Attorney's office for New York said.

Prosecutors said Liberty Reserve processed at least 55 million illegal transactions for at least one million users "and facilitated global criminal conduct."

The probe involved law enforcement in 17 countries and "is believed to be the largest money laundering prosecution in history," the prosecutor's office said.

Liberty Reserve's principals were arrested on Friday in a round-up launched simultaneously in Costa Rica, Spain and in New York, sealing the fate of a company that had been one of the most successful in the wildly popular but increasingly scrutinized world of unofficial banking and virtual currencies.

The unsealed indictment accuses founder Arthur Budovsky -- a former US citizen who took on Costa Rican nationality -- and his partners of creating a firm that masqueraded as a convenient and legitimate money transfer system.

In reality, the organization turned itself into the "financial hub of the cyber-crime world," the indictment said.

Customers would go to Liberty Reserve's now shut-down website to buy the online currency, known as LR, that could then be used in transactions with other LR users.

The system was not registered with the US authorities and unlike some other non-state currency systems did not require proof of identity for users.

Adding another important layer of anonymity, Liberty required customers to buy or sell their LRs via third party exchangers, meaning that there was no direct link between a customer's traditional bank account and Liberty's system.

An extra service would allow a user to hide "his own Liberty Reserve account number when transferring funds, effectively making the transfer completely untraceable, even within Liberty Reserve's already opaque system."

The system, the indictment says, was tailor-made for criminal transactions and money-laundering, facilitating "a broad range of online criminal activity, including credit card fraud, identity theft, investment fraud, computer hacking, child pornography, and narcotics trafficking."

"The scope of the defendants' unlawful conduct is staggering," the indictment said.

"With more than 200,000 users in the United States, Liberty Reserve processed more than 12 million financial transactions annually, with a combined value of more than \$1.4 billion."

Budovsky and his partners started Liberty Reserve after an earlier similar venture, Gold Age Inc, which traded the E-Gold digital currency, was shut down by US authorities.

It was then that Budovsky emigrated to Costa Rica, later renouncing his US citizenship.

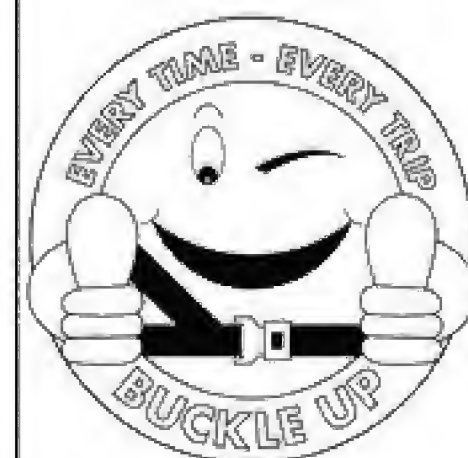
Virtual currencies have grown exponentially, but face pressure on numerous fronts. The popular Bitcoin system has come under scrutiny by financial authorities and seen growing trading volatility.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	O	B	P	A	N	G	C	H	I	P
O	U	R	A	S	E	A	H	A	S	H
S	C	I	S	H	O	P	A	L	L	I
C	H	E	S	T	E	I	F	F	E	L
H	A	M	M	S	E	T				
F	L	O	E	M	A	G	I	I	V	Y
R	E	N	M	I	D	A	S	M	A	E
Y	E	T	L	I	A	M	E	E	L	S
A	I	L	T	E	A	S				
F	E	R	R	E	T	M	E	E	T	S
R	A	G	E	O	R	C	A	T	A	T
O	V	E	N	G	O	E	S	A	X	E
M	E	T	E	A	W	L	S	L	I	T

REMEMBER

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Jolly Pirates Aruba is awarded the 2013 Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence

-- Jolly Pirates Aruba proudly announces that it has received the 2013 Certificate of Excellence award, from the world's largest Travel site, Trip Advisor.

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From the world's largest

Travel Site, Trip Advisor's Certificate of Excellence provides top performing establishments from around the world an award with recognition they deserve, based on positive feedback and glowing Trip Reports from those who matter most - their loyal guests.

Jolly Pirates Aruba is delighted to receive the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence," explains Captains Ronal Fajares, Julio Payares and Edwin Loyaga who together make the Jolly Pirates experience worth writing home about. Recently at gala affair in the Radisson Ballroom the Jolly Pirates were also recognized as



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Aruba's coastline for more than fifteen years with a combined efforts so that their guests may share the magic of a perfect sail to countless Aruba visitors. The Jolly Pirate team with generous attention to hospitality and attention to detail is why Jolly Pirates Cruises remain the top choice among island visitors. The entire team takes pleasure in welcoming back old friends and will spread an infectious sense of fun to their new guests as well.

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100,000 Christians die for faith every year: Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - A top Vatican official has said around 100,000 Christians are killed every year for reasons linked to their faith and pointed to the Middle East, Africa and Asia as the biggest problem areas.

Monsignor Silvano Maria Tomasi was quoted by Vatican radio on Tuesday as saying that the figures were "shocking" and "incredible".

Tomasi said Christians were also forced to leave their homes and see their churches destroyed in some parts of the world, and were often subjected to rapes, kidnappings and discrimination.

The Vatican official made particular reference to the kid-



napping of two Orthodox bishops near Aleppo in Syria last month.

Religious freedom is beset by "sectarianism, intolerance, terrorism and exclusionary laws," he said, while also pointing to exceptions like Bangladesh where he said

rights are protected.

Another senior Vatican figure, the secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Mario Toso, said recently that discrimination against Christians "should be countered in the same way as anti-Semitism and Islamophobia".

NEW YORK (AFP) - Art experts are hoping strong interest from Asian buyers and a buoyant market, sparked by a record-breaking sale of contemporary art earlier this month, will boost two Latin American auctions in New York this week. Christie's estimates \$24 million to \$34 million in total Latin American sales on today and Thursday.

If the upper limit is reached, it will top the peak of the auction house's sale of the region's art, set at \$33.7 million in May 2008, months before the Wall Street crash. Sotheby's expects about \$20.7 million to \$28.7 million in sales.

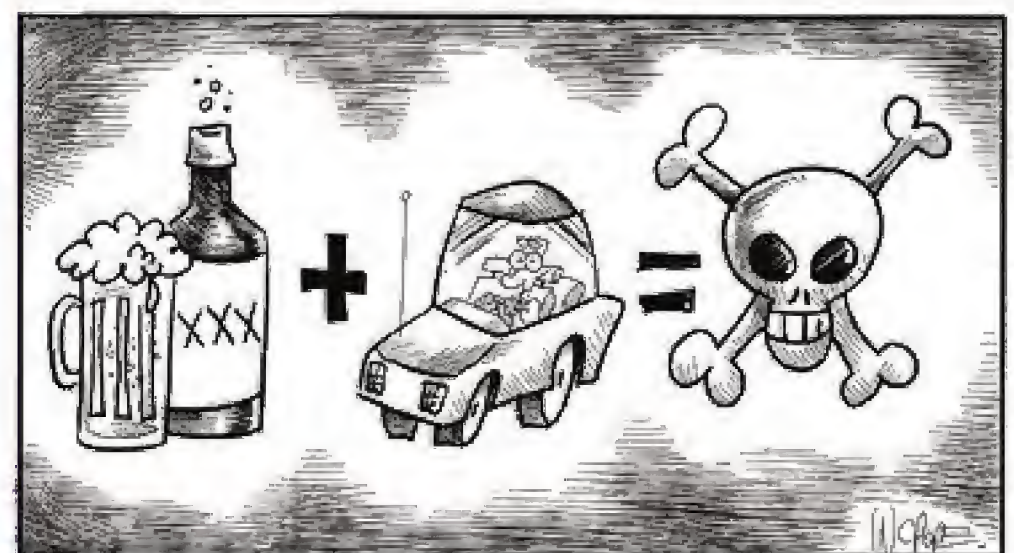
left: "Arrullo" a marble sculpture by Costa Rican artist Jorge Jimenez Deredia, estimated at \$50,000 to \$70,000, during a preview of the Latin American sale this week at Christie's in New York.



Zhang Daqian's 'Lotus' fetches \$10.4 mn



HONG KONG (AFP) - A work by Chinese master Zhang Daqian, dubbed the "Picasso of the East", fetched more than \$10 million at a Hong Kong sale Tuesday, auction house Christie's said. A set of four large hanging scrolls entitled "Lotus" sold for HK\$80.51 million (\$10.4 million) at the auction house's fine Chinese modern paintings sale, beating pre-sale estimates by more than HK\$65 million. Each scroll is over five feet tall (1.5 metres) and the painting, which was completed in 1947, depicts multiple blooming lotus flowers drawn in ink and colour on paper, Christie's said in a statement. Twenty-four works by Zhang fetched HK\$330 million at a Sotheby's sale on Monday after "intense" bidding, which was almost 90 percent above the auction house's estimates, Sotheby's said.



Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal

clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients

that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin,



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm, Telf: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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SPORTS

Spanish, Japanese climbers perish on Himalayan peak

KATHMANDU (AFP) - Another three climbers have perished during Himalayan expeditions in Nepal, organisers said Tuesday, casting a shadow over celebrations this week of the first summit of Everest 60 years ago.

A 67-year-old Japanese woman named as Chizuko Kono and 50-year-old Spaniard Juanjo Garra went missing on Friday on Mount Dhaulagiri along with their Nepalese guide and were confirmed dead on Tuesday.

The death toll from this year's climbing season, the 60th since Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary reached the summit of Mount Everest for the first time, is now at 16.

Garra was marooned high on the mountain after he slipped and broke his ankle, organisers said, but it was not immediately clear what happened to Kono and her guide high on the avalanche-prone peak.

Every May, hundreds of climbers from around the world attempt to scale peaks in the Himalayas when weather conditions are at their best, but the dangers from avalanches, injuries and bad weather remain.

Garra was attempting to summit the 8,167-metre peak of Dhaulagiri as part of his quest to top all of the 14 peaks of more than 8,000 metres in the world, eight of which are in Nepal.

Eight people have died on Mount Everest this season, including a Nepalese Sherpa who had reached the summit ten times and previously ran expeditions to recover dead bodies from the slopes.

Another five climbers died on Kanchenjunga -- the world's third-highest peak -- a week ago, according to Nepalese tourism officials.

MLB:



TORONTO (AFP) - Maicer Izturis #3 of the Toronto Blue Jays can't make the catch as Jordan Schafer #17 of the Atlanta Braves slides safely into second base during inter-league MLB game action yesterday. Atlanta Braves won 7-6.



HOUSTON (AFP) - Carlos Corporan #22 of the Houston Astros fails to catch a baseball behind home plate in the seventh inning against the Colorado Rockies at Minute Maid Park yesterday in Houston, Texas. Colorado Rockies won 2-1.

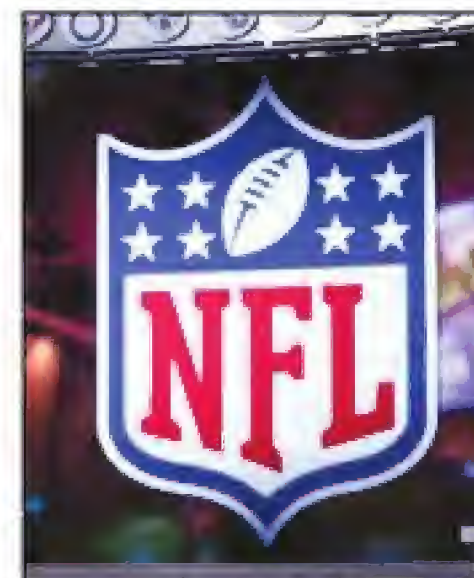
NFL moves back 2014 draft by two weeks

NEW YORK - The NFL has moved its draft back to the month of May, starting next year.

The 2014 draft will be held from May 8-10 at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

According to the league, no decision regarding future dates has been made, but there has been speculation that the draft will remain in the month of May. It had been held in April.

The last change in the draft came in 2010 when the process



was lengthened from two days to three days, with the first round taking place in prime time.

Despite the later draft, the NFL said there would be no major changes to the dates of other offseason events next year.

Indianapolis will again be the site for the NFL Combine from Feb. 18-25, while the new league year will begin with the free-agent period starting March 11.

Dates and the length of off-season programs, including rookie reporting, will not be affected. Teams will also have the same number of off-season practice days they currently have.

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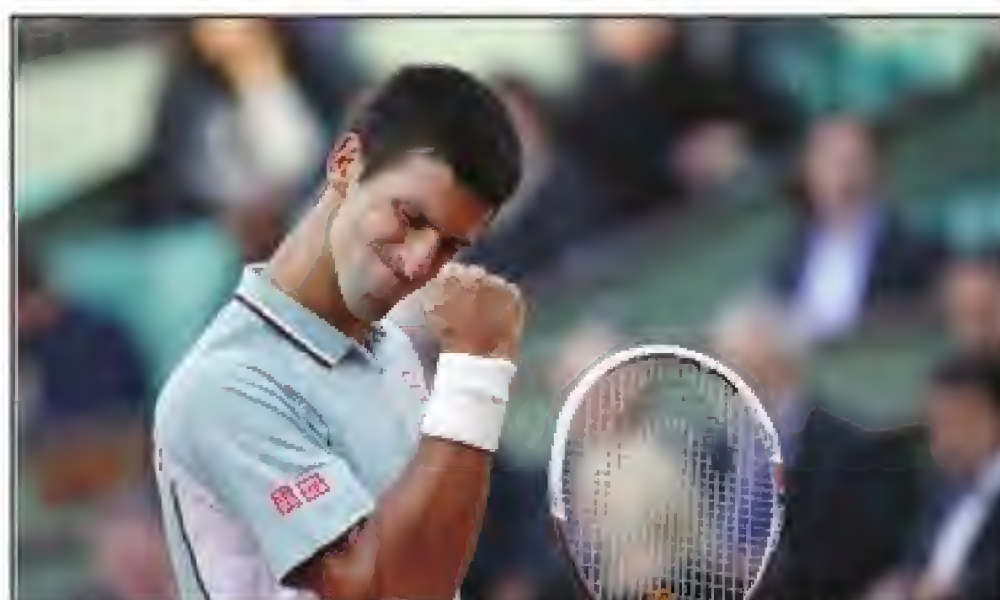
Tennis: *Patience pays for Djokovic, Tomic sticks with dad*

PARIS (AFP) - Novak Djokovic, bidding to win a first French Open and become just the eighth man to complete a career Grand Slam, played a game of patience with the Paris rain Tuesday and it paid off.

The world number one only got onto Court Philippe Chatrier just after 1830 after a marathon women's match and a four-hour total rain stoppage left him kicking his heels.

But the top seed came out fired-up to beat David Goffin of Belgium 7-6 (7/5), 6-4, 7-5 to reach the second round.

I warmed up five or six times because of the rain, then you have to adjust your tactics



Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts after a point against Belgium's David Goffin

because of the damp conditions," said Djokovic, who next faces Guido Pella of Argentina, the world number 83.

"You need to step into the court and hit the ball.

Djokovic, the runner-up to Rafael Nadal in 2012, would

have been wary of the challenge posed by Goffin, who made the last 16 in 2012 after coming through qualifying.

But the world number 58 lacked the firepower to consistently trouble the world number one.

On a day when 13 matches of the 40 scheduled were held over until today, and three were uncompleted, it was troubled Australian Bernard Tomic who found himself at the centre of attention during the cool and damp afternoon.

Tomic, 20, retired from his first round match against Victor Hanescu with a muscle tear.

The world number 61 then launched a passionate defence of his father, and coach, John Tomic who is facing criminal charges in Spain after being accused of assaulting his son's training partner.

Highly-rated Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, dubbed 'Baby Federer' because of his similar style to the 17-time Grand Slam winner, went through when Colombian opponent Alejandro Falla retired with the Bulgarian 26th seed 6-4, 1-0 to the good.

The 22-year-old Dimitrov,

the boyfriend of Maria Sharapova, could face Djokovic in the third round.

Date-Krumm became the third oldest player to compete in women's singles in the tournament -- Martina Navratilova holding the record at 47 and 232 days from her 2004 showing.

Fully 57 players in this year's women's singles draw were not even born when Date-Krumm made her Roland Garros debut.

Elsewhere, in the rain-hit programme, French women's number one Marion Bartoli, the 13th seed, needed three hours and five match points to beat Olga Govortsova of Belarus, 7-6 (10/8), 4-6, 7-5.

Bartoli, a semi-finalist in 2011, also saved two match points.

She goes on to face Colombia's Mariana Duque-Marino.

Three-time semi-finalist Jelena Jankovic, the 18th seeded Serb, beat Slovak veteran Daniela Hantuchova 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) and next plays Spain's Garbine Muguruza.

But world number three Victoria Azarenka, the Australian Open champion, had her opener against Elena Vesnina held over.

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Auto Racing: Kanaan collects \$2 mn from record Indy win



INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - Brazil's Tony Kanaan collected \$2.35 million on Monday from a total purse of more than \$12 million for winning the 97th Indianapolis 500 with the fastest winning speed in race history. Kanaan completed 200 laps Sunday around the 2.5-mile (4km) Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval in 2 hrs 40 mins 3.4181 secs at 187.433 mph (301.644 km/h), breaking the old mark of 185.981 mph set by Dutchman Arie Luyendyk in 1990. A stretch of 130 laps in a row without a caution flag pushed Kanaan and his top rivals to keep racing at a pace unmatched in Indy history. It took Kanaan 12 career starts to finally win at Indy, matching the record for the longest drought for an eventual Indy 500 winner established when Sam Hanks won in 1957 in his 12th attempt.



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Parker-powered Spurs sweep into NBA Finals



Tony Parker #9 shoots the ball against the Memphis Grizzlies in Game Four

MEMPHIS (AFP) - Tony Parker netted 37 points, his highest-scoring game of the season, and the San Antonio Spurs defeated Memphis 93-86 on Monday to complete a play-off sweep and advance to the NBA Finals.

The Spurs finished a 4-0 rout

of the Grizzlies in the best-of-seven Western Conference final and reached the NBA finals for the first time since 2007, when they swept LeBron James-led Cleveland for their fourth title in nine seasons.

French guard Parker, briefly knocked out of the game by a

slap to the face, made 15-of-21 shots from the field and had six assists and four rebounds in powering the Spurs to their sixth playoff triumph in a row.

The Spurs, who have never lost in the NBA Finals, will face the Eastern Conference winner, either James and the defending champion Miami Heat or the Indiana Pacers, in the best-of-seven championship series starting on June 6.

San Antonio, which would have a home-court edge over Indiana but not Miami, won the NBA crown for the first time in 1999 over New York and also took the title in 2003 over New Jersey, and 2005 and 2007 over Detroit.

Coach Gregg Popovich and Duncan, a three-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player, have been on every Spurs team to reach the championship series.

But this time, it might just be 2007 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Parker who holds the key to San Antonio's title dreams.

Memphis coach Lionel Hollins agreed that Parker was the dominant force in the series despite a Spurs' defense that kept the Grizzlies shooting only 37.2 percent from the field.

Parker, who scored 14 points in the third quarter, downplayed his own role, playing up Duncan's 15 points and eight

rebounds as well as the contributions of all his teammates.

"It's more my team," Parker said. "They are setting great picks for me. I'm always feeding off my teammates."

Quincy Pondexter came off the bench to lead Memphis with 22 points. Marc Gasol added 14 points and Zach Randolph scored 13.

"We're thrilled to be able to win the series but Memphis was a hell of a competitor," Popovich said.

Matsushita Killed At TT

LONDON (AFP) - Japanese motorcyclist Yoshinari Matsushita has been killed during qualifying at the Isle of Man TT, event organisers announced on Tuesday. The 43-year-old Tyco Suzuki rider died after an incident late on Monday at Ballacrye on the north of the island, which lies in the Irish Sea between the British mainland and Ireland. The qualifying session was promptly cancelled, according to race organisers Auto Cycle Union Events Ltd (ACU). Yoshinari, who hailed from Saitama, had competed at the TT since 2009 and finished fifth in the TT Zero for electric bikes in 2011. He also raced in the superstock and superbike classes. The ACU said that an investigation into the incident had been opened. The Isle of Man TT is renowned for being one of the most dangerous races in the sport. Matsushita is the 21st rider to die in the event since 2000.



Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Appetizers: Stuffed Avocado, Escargots Bourguignon, (choose one) Fruits of the Seven Seas. Choices of Soups

Entrees: Breaded Grouper topped with coconut shrimps served with rice and vegetables

Land & Sea
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Breaded Chicken Breast served with mushroom sauce, topped with cheese served with vegetables and stuffed potato

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